

Jamie's Dream School (Channel 4, UK), "Cherie Blair's Guide to Prison"

Introduction

"You can judge how civilised a society is by how it treats its prisoners."

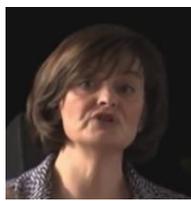
Winston Churchill, 1910 (Misquoted)

- 1) What do you think of the quote above?
- 2) How well are prisoners treated in your country?
- 3) What are the voting rights of prisoners in your country?

Video



John, convicted criminal



Cherie Blair, Human Rights Lawyer



Michael, UKIP Politician

Watch the video for the first time and answer the following comprehension questions:

- 1) What was John convicted of?
- 2) What did John do when he lost his right to vote in prison?
- 3) How old was John when he left school?
- 4) What did John study in prison?
- 5) Does Michael believe convicted criminals should lose their vote forever?
- 6) Do the majority of the students believe that prisoners should have the right to vote at the end of the debate?

Watch the video again and put the following quotes in the order they appear in the video:

Quote	Order in video	Do you agree/disagree?
"Why do you think you deserve the privilege to be able to vote?"		
"There is a difference between a privilege and a right and it is a human right to be able to vote. Even if you have done something wrong, you're still a human after all and if you realise you've done wrong, that's even better."		
"Tell me how many human rights the last government took away with the illegal Iraq war, tell me that! It isn't irrelevant!"		

"Theoretically if he's taken someone else's life, hasn't he taken someone else's vote? So why does he get their vote in place of them?"		
"When you go to prison you're out of the community, you don't get a say in it; you're not in the community anymore. When you're out of prison, you come back to the community. I don't think they should get a choice in it because they're in there for a reason."		
"One of the problems is that if there is a particular party that goes for what people in prison want to happen, we are going to have the majority of people in prison voting for the same party which could potentially affect the outcome of the voting system."		
"Prisoners, when they're in prison, the government that is in power affects the prisoners and the prison as well, so they should be able to have a right to say who they want to have in charge of the prison."		
"I think that if you are big enough to do a crime and go into prison, then you shouldn't have the choice in what your punishment is."		
"He took one person's right away, look at how many people he's trying to get to have rights now! He's trying to get all the prisoners in this country to have rights now!"		

Grammar - Zero and First Conditionals in Debates

The video is full of examples of the zero and first conditional. Look at the examples below paying close attention to the tenses in *italics*.

Zero Conditional Examples:

"*If you have* done something wrong, *you are* still a human"

"*If you realise* that you've done wrong, *that is* better."

"*If you are* big enough to do a crime, *you shouldn't* have the choice in your punishment."

"*If he has* taken someone else's life, *he has* taken someone else's vote"

"*When (or if) you go* to prison, *you are* out of the community..."

"*When (or if) you are* in prison, *the government affects* you..."

We use the **zero conditional** to talk about things that are **always true**. The form is:

If }
When } + present form, present form.

First Conditional Examples:

"If there is a party that goes for what people in prison want, we are going to have the majority of people in prison voting for the same party..."

We use the **first conditional** when we talk about real and possible situations with a consequence in the future.

If
When } + present form, future form.

Grammar Practice, Debating

You are going to conduct short debates on the following topics. Before you start speaking, prepare some zero or first conditional statements that you could use in the debate.

Topic	Your Statement
"Everybody has the right to own a gun."	
"Military service should be mandatory"	
"We should all have free access to health care."	
"People should not be allowed to smoke in enclosed public spaces."	
"People who kill should receive the death penalty."	
"Women should receive the same pay as men."	
"The police should have access to all our telephone calls, text messages and emails."	

When you have prepared your statements, conduct your debates. What's your opinion?